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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/752,962	12/29/2000	Terry June Linsey	LOT9-2000-0029 US1	9960

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IBM CORPORATION  
LOTUS SOFTWARE  
ONE ROGERS STREET  
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02142

EXAMINER
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VU, KIEU D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

DATE MAILED: 01/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/752,962

Applicant(s)

LINSEY ET AL.

Examiner

Kieu D Vu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-13 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grau et al ("Grau", USP 5910803) and Salas et al ("Salas", USP 6314408).

Regarding claims 1 and 19, Grau teaches a method for browsing comprising the steps of presenting a user interface (col 1, lines 63-67) on a searchable object (col 2, lines 12-14); providing in a main window 600 in said interface a quick browse selector 615; responsive to user selection of said quick browse selector, searching said searchable object to generate a set of hits (maps), creating a set of links (a list of map names) to said of hits (maps) to control said main window without losing context (col 7, lines 52-53), displaying said context in a separate quick browse window within said main window in a simpler format (left pane 610 in Fig 6), with an entry (map name) in said separate quick browse window for each item in said set of hits (maps) ; and responsive to user selection of an item (name of a desired map) in said quick browse window, displaying in said main window an object (desired map) linked to said item (pane 620 in Fig. 6). Grau differs from the claim in that Grau does not explicitly teach that this method of browsing can be applied in collaboration space. However, such feature is known in the art as taught by Salas. Salas teaches a collaborative work environment which comprises a browser for browsing and displaying links (Fig. 10). It

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would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teaching of Grau and Salas before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the mapping tool taught by Grau with the motivation being to use the mapping tool in collaboration environment.

Regarding claim 2, Salas teaches the step of organizing said collaboration space according to an object model selectively including room (eRoom), folder (col 6, line 49), page (col 4, lines 63-64), member (col 3, line 2).

Regarding claim 3, Grau teaches that the simpler format being a hypertext markup language format (link).

Regarding claim 4, Salas teaches the implementing as a room (eRoom) in said collaboration space.

Regarding claim 5, Grau teaches the implementing said quick browse selector as a remote control selector in a search results window (search and display the desired map).

Regarding claim 6, Grau teaches, responsive to user selection of a link (map name) to a target page (a desired map) in said quick browse window 615, of reloading said main window with said target page (the desired map).

Regarding claim 7, Salas teaches the displaying changes (col 16, lines 29-33).

Regarding claims 8-9, Grau teaches enabling random access browsing of links (according to user's desire).

Regarding claim 10, Grau teaches a site map (line 66 of col 7 to line 3 of col 8).

Regarding claim 11, Grau teaches the step of generating said site map as a simple rendering of an access controlled table of context hierarchy (line 66 of col 7 to line 3 of col 8).

Regarding claim 12, Grau teaches the steps of displaying said quick browse window in minimal screen space 610 while said user browses target pages and allowing said user to see and access local settings of said target page so as to display context of said target page (col 12, lines 10-21).

Regarding claim 13, Grau teaches that said context includes location.

3. Claims 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grau, Salas, and Rodden et al ("Rodden", USP 6473102).

Regarding claim 14, Grau teaches a method for browsing comprising the steps of presenting a user interface (col 1, lines 63-67) on a searchable object (col 2, lines 12-14); providing in a main window 600 in said interface a quick browse selector 615; responsive to user selection of said quick browse selector, searching said searchable object to generate a set of hits (maps), creating a set of links (a list of map names) to said of hits (maps) to control said main window without losing context (col 7, lines 52-53), displaying said context in a separate quick browse window within said main window in a simpler format (left pane 610 in Fig 6), with an entry (map name) in said separate quick browse window for each item in said set of hits (maps) ; and responsive to user selection of an item (name of a desired map) in said quick browse window, displaying in said main window an object (desired map) linked to said item (pane 620 in Fig. 6). Grau differs from the claim in that Grau does not explicitly teach that this method of browsing can be applied in collaboration space. However, such feature is known in the art as

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taught by Salas. Salas teaches a collaborative work environment which comprises a browser for browsing and displaying links (Fig. 10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teaching of Grau and Salas before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the mapping tool taught by Grau with the motivation being to use the mapping tool in collaboration environment. Grau does not teach that the separate quick browse window can be floating. However, the feature of floating window is known in the art as taught by Rodden. Rodden teaches a method for automatically resizing and repositioning windows in response to changes in display. Rodden further teaches a floating window 42 which always appears in the foreground of the user interface (col 3, lines 46-51). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teaching of Grau and Rodden before him at the time the invention was made, to apply the window floating feature taught by Rodden in the quick browser window taught by Grau with the motivation being to enable the system to always display the quick browser window on top of any other windows so that the user can quickly conveniently access the quick browser window.

Regarding claim 15, Salas teaches the step of organizing said collaboration space according to an object model selectively including room (eRoom), folder (col 6, line 49), page (col 4, lines 63-64), member (col 3, line 2).

Regarding claim 16, Salas teaches the search (col 10, lines 58-60) and the changes (col 16, lines 29-33).

Regarding claim 17, Salas teaches the help (Fig. 12).

Regarding claim 18, Grau teaches the opening of quick browse window (615 in Fig. 6).

4. Response to Applicant's arguments:

Applicant's arguments filed 10/20/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to Applicant's argument that "There is no teaching in Grau ... of creating in a separate window links to hits resulting from a user initiated search", it is noted that Grau, in lines 12-15 of col. 2, teaches the "retrieve the topology data", therefore, in a reasonable interpretation, Grau teaches searching technique. Maps, which are "hits" from retrieving topology data (user initiated search), have links (map names 612) in a separate window 615.

In response to Applicant's argument that "element 615 – which is a pane ..., but not a separate, or floating window from that main window", it is noted that window, according to Merriam – Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (Tenth Edition), is "any of the areas into which a computer display may be divided and on which distinctly different types of information are display". Therefore, element 615 of Grau is a window since it is an area into which a computer display is divided (separate area from the rest of the display) and on this element 615, displayed information has a distinctly different type (map names) from the information on the rest of the display (maps). Since "separate" is a relative term, this window 615 can be reasonably interpreted as a separate window from the main window since it defines a separate display area to display a different type of information (see Fig. 6). Since Grau's window 615 is not floating, Rodden reference is cited to teach this "floating" limitation. Therefore, Applicant's argument on the lack of teaching this limitation is now moot under new ground of rejection.

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In response to Applicant's argument that Salas fails to teach a search, it is noted that since Grau teaches searching but does not teach the collaboration environment, Salas is cited to teach this limitation. Applicant's argument against Salas reference attacks the reference individually; therefore, the argument is not persuasive.

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kieu D. Vu whose telephone number is (703-605-1232). The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thu from 7:00AM to 3:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca, can be reached on (703- 308-3116).

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follows:

(703)-872-9306

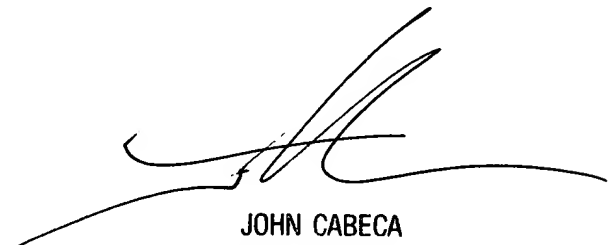
and / or:

(703)-746-5639 (use this FAX #, only after approval by Examiner, for "INFORMAL" or "DRAFT" communication. Examiners may request that a formal paper / amendment be faxed directly to them on occasions)

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703-305-3900).

Kieu D. Vu

01/09/04



JOHN CABECA  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER